



## **RULE OF TWO POLICY STATEMENT**

Kings West Soccer Club (KWSC) has created this policy using the Rule of Two guidelines developed by Canada Soccer. When a KWSC Coach, Volunteer Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager or Staff Member, is in a potentially vulnerable situation with any child (example - locker room or meeting room), another KWSC Volunteer Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, Staff Member or the parent/guardian of the player(s) must be present. KWSC has taken the *Responsible Coaching Movement Pledge*.

At least one of the adults must be the same gender as the child, or a gender the child identifies with, except if one of the adults is a parent of the child.

**Note - This includes electronic devices such as SMS messaging and private chat applications.**

## **PURPOSE**

According to the Child and Family Services Act of Nova Scotia, a child is defined as “a person under nineteen years of age”.

This policy was created to ensure a Rule of Two Policy is in effect between adults and minors in the course of KWSC interactions. This policy serves to protect minor athletes in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring that more than one adult is present. Vulnerable situations can include closed doors meetings, travel, locker rooms and all training environments, as well as virtual situations.

This policy also applies to electronic communications via text and email. (All other electronic communication is prohibited between adults and minors)

This policy applies to all members of KWSC including players, coaches, managers, staff, and all volunteers. This policy aligns with Canada Soccer’s Making Ethical Decisions course,

## WHY IS THIS POLICY IMPORTANT

The Rule of Two serves to protect minor athletes in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring that more than one adult is present. Vulnerable situations can include closed doors meetings, travel, and training environments.

## PROCEDURE

Ideally, the rule is that there will always be two screened and ideally NCCP-trained or certified coaches with an athlete, especially a minor athlete, when in a potentially vulnerable situation. This means that any one-on-one interactions between coach and an athlete must take place within earshot and view of the second coach, with the exception of medical emergencies.

The following is the standard:

- (1) Two NCCP-trained and screened Coaches, one Athlete – **IDEAL** and should be the case the majority of times
- (2) One NCCP-trained and screened Coach and a screened “Person in Authority”, one athlete – **ACCEPTABLE BY EXCEPTION** and should not be the norm.
- (3) One NCCP-trained and screened coach and two athletes – **RARE** and should be only in exceptional circumstances
- (4) One NCCP-trained and screened coach and one athlete – **PROHIBITED**

In the event where screened and NCCP-trained or certified coaches are not available, a screened “Person in Authority” (such as managers, support personnel, chaperones, or director of the club or organization) should be present instead. In all instances, one coach/volunteer must reflect the genders of the athlete participating or be of an appropriate identity in relation to the athlete.

While numbers 2 and 3 above are acceptable in certain circumstances they should be by exception only and number 1 above should be the principle we follow in most circumstances.

Failure to comply with this policy will result in disciplinary action with a first offense resulting in a letter of reprimand issued to the head coach and a second offense will result in a suspension of the head coach. It is the responsibility of the head coach to ensure compliance of the team to the two deep rules.

### Recommended Guidelines

#### *Travel*

The following guidelines from *Canada Soccer* and KWSC are strongly recommended during travel with athletes:

- a) A Person in Authority may not be alone in a car with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent/ guardian
- b) A Person in Authority may not share a room or be alone in a hotel room with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian
- c) Room or bed checks during overnight stays must be done by two Persons in Authority.

### ***Locker Room / Changing Area / Meeting Room***

The following guidelines *Canada Soccer* and KWSC are strongly recommended for locker rooms, changing areas, and meeting rooms:

- a) Interactions between a Person in Authority and an individual athlete should not occur in any room where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy such as the locker room, meeting room, washroom, or changing area. A second Person in Authority should be present for all necessary interactions in any such room
- b) Locker room or changing area should be supervised by two Persons in Authority of the same gender identity as the players whenever possible
- c) If a second Person in Authority is not available, the Person in Authority supervising the locker room or changing area should never be alone with an individual athlete
- d) If Persons in Authority are not present in the locker room or changing area, or if they are not permitted to be present, they should still be available outside the locker room or changing area and be able to enter the room or area if required; however, this would not be deemed to be a best practice

### ***Training / Competition Environment***

The following guidelines from *Canada Soccer* and KWSC are strongly recommended for the training and competition environment (including before, during, and after practices and games):

- a) A Person in Authority should never be alone with an athlete prior to or following a game or practice, unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian.
  - i) If the athlete is the first athlete to arrive, the athlete's parent/guardian should remain until another athlete or Person in Authority arrives. If an athlete drives themselves, the athlete should wait for another athlete to arrive before going to the field
  - ii) If an athlete would potentially be alone with a Person in Authority following a game or practice, the Person in Authority should ask another Person in Authority (or a parent/guardian of another athlete or another athlete in a senior environment) to stay until all the athletes have been picked up. If an adult is not available, then another athlete should be present in order to avoid the Person in Authority being alone with a single athlete
- b) Persons in Authority giving instructions, demonstrating skills, or facilitating drills or lessons to an individual athlete should always be doing so within earshot and eyesight of another Person in Authority

## ***Gender Identity***

A Person in Authority who is interacting with athletes should be of the same gender identity as the athletes. The following guidelines from *Canada Soccer* and KWSC are strongly recommended:

- a) For teams consisting of athletes of just one gender identity, a Person in Authority of the same gender identity should be available to participate or attend every interaction
- b) For teams consisting of athletes of more than one gender identity (e.g., co-ed teams), a Person in Authority of each gender identity should be available to participate or attend every interaction

## **Rule of Two in a Virtual Setting**

*The Rule of Two* will apply in virtual settings for all minor athletes.

- a) For all virtual sessions, two adult coaches be present, or one coach and one adult (parent, guardian, volunteer, club administrator) – one-on-one sessions are prohibited.
- b) Parents/guardians will be fully informed beforehand about the activities undertaken during the sessions, as well as the process of the virtual session
- c) Communication during each session should be in an open and observable environment (i.e., avoid bedrooms) in the athlete's home (athlete's parents'/guardians' home), and the coach must initiate the session from an appropriate location (i.e., avoid bedrooms or "overly personal"/unprofessional settings).
- d) Parents/guardians will be required to consent to virtual sessions prior to each session.

Learn more: <https://coach.ca/responsible-coaching-movement>